SOCRATIC

An Inquest Begun in the Case of Professor Walker.

HEMLOCK AS A DRUG.

Where the Plant is Found and Its Properties.

OPINIONS OF MEDICAL WRITERS.

Testimony of the Physicians Attending the Victim.

CARD FROM DR. AGNEW.

The remarkable death of Professor F. W. Walker from the effects of hemiock, as published in yesterday's HERALD, has already attracted considersole attention both in scientific and medical circles. The fact that the deceased swallowed the narcotic drug for the relief of blepharo-facial spasms lends additional interest to the case, while the wonderful self-control displayed by Professor Walker in his last moments, in dictating the memoranda of his symptoms, places him in the

category of a martyr to science.

The evidence taken at the inquest yesterday leads to the supposition that his death may have been sought on his part, for one of the medical witnesses stated that Professor Walker had remarked that death by hemlock would be an easy one, and he also referred to the death of Socrates as an instance of the fact. At the present stage of the investigation into the manner and method of his death it is of course premature to express any declated opinion on this question. Many medical men seem to entertain the idea that Mr. Walker was simply experimenting with the drug and incautiously swallowed of it than was proper. They also regarded such an experiment as singularly unfortunate; for it appears that the faculty have always viewed the extract of hemiock with extreme distrust. Consequently it was scarcely ever used in prescriptions among our practising physicians. In order to give the readers of the HERALD some idea of the character and properties of hemlock the fol-lowing facts have been gathered from scientific authorities of ancient and modern days:-

HOW HEMLOCK GROWS. Hemlock is an umbelliferous plant and is a native of Europe, and has become naturalized in the United States, where it is also cultivated for medicinal purposes. It grows usually in clusters slong the roadside or in waste grounds, and is found most abundant in old settlements. It dowers in June and July. The whole plant, sspecially at this period, exhales a fetid odor, and narcotic effects result from breathing for a long time air loaded with the effluvia. The hemiock of Greece, Italy and Spain is said to be much more energetic in action than that of Northern Europe. THE DRIED LEAVES

of the hemiock have a strong, heavy, narcotic odor; their taste is bitterish and nauseous; their color is dark green, which is retained in the powder. No satisfactory analysis of hemiock has ever been made. Dr. Schraeder found in the juice of the leaves resin, extractive, gom, albumen, a green fecular and various saline substances. So long ago as 1827 Dr. Gieske obtained an alkaline liquid by distilling hemiock leaves with water and caustic lime. It appears that there are two volatile substances in hemlock-one of them an oil, which comes over by simple distillation, and upon which the odor of the plant depends, and the other au alkaline principle, which, as it exists in the plant, is so combined as not to be volatilizable, but which, when separated by one of the mineral alkalies from its native combination. rises steadily in distillation, and may thus be pro sured. The latter substance is the active principle, and has received the name of conia or contine. According to Professor Christison, the easiest me: nod to obtain conia from the leaves, is to distil's mixture of a strong solution of potassa and the alcoholic extract of the unripe fruit. As obtained by the above process, comia is in a state of a hydrate containing one-jourth of its weight of water and a little ammonia. From the former it may be freed by chloride of calcium; from the latter by exposing it under an exhausted receiver till

The presence of conta in an extract or other preparation of hemlock is detected by runbing it with potassa, weich instantly develops its pecu-Har odor. It consists of nitrogen, carbon and hydrogen. In a same state it is the most active. It is a most energetic poison; one drop of it injected into the eye of a rabbit killed the animal in nine minutes, and three drops killed a stout cat in a minute and a hall when simil rly applied. HEMLOCK IS NARCOTTO

and somewhat sedative to the circulation. It directly diminishes the action of the heart, and when it produces death exhausts the contractiblisty of that organ. When given so as to july affect the system it produces more or less vertigo, dimness of vision, nauses, laintness, sensation of numbness and general muscalar debility. In larger doses it occasions dilated pupils, difficulty of speech, delirium or stupor, tremors and paralysis, and ustimately convulsions and death. Sometimes it produces fatal effects through paralysis alone, without come or convulsions. Its operation usually commences in less than nelf an hour, and if moderate, seldom continues longer than twenty-lour hours. It is supnosed to be the parcotic used by the ancient Atha mians to destroy the life of condemned individuals, and by which Socrates and Phocton died. It was also used by the aucients as a medicine, but fell into entire neglect until the seventeenth century. when it again came into notice and was extrava gantly praised. Since that time it has been submitted to ample trial, and though its original reputation has not been fully sustained, it still retains a place in the catalogue of useful medinnes. It has been highly recommended by prominent physicians in painful scrothious tumors and sicers, in various discuses of the skin and in chronic rheumatism and neuralgic affections. It has also ocen employed with the effect of relieving ar palliating the symptoms or invorably modifying the action of other remedies.

ANCIENT USES OF THE POISON. This plant has been noted as a potson from remote autiquity. In consequence of the power which it possessed of destroying life in a certain and simust immediate manner, it was used at Atheus as a mode of execution for those condemped to death by the tribunal of Arconsgus. Socrates and Phocion were among the distinguished ancients who suffered death by the agency of this potson. The accounts which have been left respecting it would lead us to believe that its operation was speedy and quattended with any violent or long tracted suffering. It was not only ployed as an instrument of public executions, but was resorted to by those who sought to spenunter suicide in its least formidable shape. among other instances, that of the Cean old men is related by Alian, who, when they had become assiess to the State and tired of the infirmities of life, invited each other to a banquet, and, having crowned themselves as in celebration of a loyous festival, drank the contum and terminated their

The description which has been left by Disscorides of the contam only shows it to have been an umbeliate plant, his character of which might apply to many species. The mention by Latin Writers under the name of Mouta are not more satisfactory. Linnous, infigenced by the nexious character of the modern officinal nemices, has appropriated to that plant the name of the Grecian species, and most suosement botanists have followed his example. Hal-

poison was not procured from this plant, but from the cicuta virosa L., a poisonous aquatic, much more powerful and violent in its operation than the common hemioca. Lamarck adopts the opinion of Linnaus and believes that the confum maits properties were rendered more active by the heat of the climate in which it grew. Guersent supposes that the poisonous draught used by the Greeks was not the product of a single species, but a compound prepared from several plants.

THE ANCIENT AND MODERN REMLOCK. Were it not for the tranquility and ease which attended death from the ancient hemiock, and which Piato has described with interesting minuteness, there would not have been much difficulty in supposing the Grecian plant to be the same with that known at the present day. It sp. pears that a large quantity was requisite to insure death. The poison was swallowed in the crude juice, recently expressed from the plant. Of this the draught taken by Phocion was large enough to cost twelve drachma. Socrates was prevented from making a libation of a part of the contents of his tatal cup, by being told that the whole was necessary to produce the consummation of his sentence. A large quantity of the modern hemiock might probably have been equally fatal, though with more violent symptoms than those which, if Plato be correct, were experienced by the Athe-

mian philosopher. Its more complete description is as follows:-Root biennial, somewhat fusiform and generally branched; stalk round, very smooth, striated, hollow, jointed, and more or less marked with purplish spots; leaves two or three times pinnate. of a very bright green, with long, sheathing peticles inserted on the joints of the stem, the leadets pinnatified and tootned; flowers in terminal umpels, the general involucre with hasf a dozen lanceolate, reflected leasets, the partial involucre with three or four situated on the outside; flowers very small, white; petals five, oval with their points inflexed. Stamens five, spreading, about the length of the corolla. Germ interior. Styles two reflexed outwardly. Fruit roundish-oval, compressed, ribbed, the ribs being transversely wrinkled or crenate; separating into two oblonghemispherical seeds.

A remarkable case of this sort of poisonin which occurred in Spatu, is cited by Orfila in his "Traité des l'oisons." But there is scarcely any narcotic plant respecting the character of which such various and opposite testimony has been adduced by medical writers. Even the experiments of the same individual are apt to present different results from its use, unless great care be taxen in the collection and preparation of the medicine. The truth is, the plant varies exceedingly at different ages, and in different places of growth, and the strength of his preparations is greatly influenced by external circumstances.

The idiosyncrasies of different persons render them variously susceptible of the action of hemlock. Some are but slightly affected by a quantity which would prove cangerous to others.

The hemlock has been for many years a subject of attention with physicians, and has been found a remedy of importance in several diseases, such as jaundice, the doloureux, schirrus and cancer. It has been recommended for whoobut it is by no means a sale medicine

The most common form of PRESERVING THE REMLOCK

for use, as well as the most convenient for its exhibition, is that of the inspissated juice or extract. It is well known, cowever, that the extracts kept in our shops differ materially in their strength, so that in beginning from a new parcel the physician can seidom predict the degree of operation of his first doses. In some instances very great quantities have been taken without the least effect. The extract is apt to prove inert when the plant is gathered too young, when the evaporation is conducted with too much heat. when a decoction of the dried plant has been evaporated instead of the fresh leaves, and fastly when the extract itself has become old. To give the extract its due strength the plant should be collected at full maturity, walle in flower, or in iruit, provided it remains green, and the juice or the decoction should be evaporated at the heat of boling salt water. The stock should be renewed every year. A suitable dose for commencement is from one to five grains. This may be increased at every time of taking it, until its constitutional effects are felt. In peginning the use of a new parcel more caution is requisite at first than after its strength has been tested.

The Ethusa cynapium, an umbellate plant very colared a Toston, has sometimes been mistaken for nemiock, which it considerably resembles. It is a smaller plant, with its stalk not spotted. It differs also in having no general involucre, while its partial one is very long.

now the doses are prepared. The powdered leaves and the inspissated juice are the forms in which contum has been usually administered. Either the leaves or the extract may be given in the dose of three or four grains of alight vertigo or nausea indicates that it has taken effect. To maintain a given impression it is necessary to increase the dose even more rapidly than is customary with most other narcotics, as the system becomes very speedily accustomed to its influence. The strength of the preparation of hemiock is exceedingly unequal, and caution is therefore necessary when the medicine is given in very large quantities to employ the same parcei, or, if a change is made, to commence with the new parcel in small doses, so as to obviate any danger which might result from its greater power. This, however, is disputed by Dr. John Harley, or London, whose experiments seem to show that this preparation is medically inert. Though fatal to some animals, hem.ock is eaten with impunity by others-as horses, goats and sheep. The best method of relieving its poisonous effects is the speedy evacuation of the stomach.

BECK ON THE HEMLOCK POISON. Professor Beck, in his work on medical juris prudence, cites some interesting cases of polsoning by hemicok. He says:-"Raving madness and epileptic fits occurred to Protessor Ray in the case of a woman who had eaten the roots of the plant. Vertigo, convulsions, coma and death were the result to two soldiers at Waltham Abbey, in Essex,

England, who had boiled it with their pacon for dioner." Home soldiers partook of broth into waich hemlock had been but. All of them were shortly afterward seized with pains in the head and throat. and feit as if drunk, but the one who had eaten the most had him down and gone to sleep. When first noticed he was insensible, respiring with great dimenity; his pulse small, and slow even to thirty pulsations in the minute; the extremities were cold and the face bluelsh and distended with blood. An emetic was given without effect. He complained of being coid, but shortly after lost again the use of speech and sense, and died in three hours after taking the poison. On dissection there were some red spots seen around the pylorus; the intestines were healthy, but all vessels of the brain were gorged with blood and in opening the crantum there flowed out blood sufficient to fill twice an ordinary chamber not. Prolessor Beck remarks that convolsions, furious deligium and swellings of the face appear thus to be among the leading symptoms from the use of this poison. The juice and the extract, when properly prepared, produce similar effects on animais. Ordin has, however, shown that the extract usually sold in the shops is inefficient and

Dr. Christison, in a paper read before the Royal Society of Edinburgh, states that he had repeated the analysis of Geiger, and obtained precisely the same results. On birds it caused coma, convusions and depressed action, or even paraissis of the neart, while on the nigher order of animals it is a local irritant, and its remote action is to cause a swiftly increasing paralysis of the muscles, ending fatally by asphyxia from palsy of the muscles respiration. He also found this polson to be

exceedingly active.
AN INTERESTING CASE. Professor Taylor says in his work on medical jurisprudence:- "The leaves and roots of the mmon hemiock have frequently given rise to acquents. Tae symptoms which they produce are dimners of sight, gladiness, destrion, swelling, with pains in the absomen, vomitthe name of the frecian species, and most succe- ing and parxing. Conventions are some- sier, my assistant, and myself, that, uncorrected, quest botanists have solvened his example. Hal- times observed. Death commonly takes might mislead. Allow me to put you in possession er. Aswever, is of opinion that the ancient piace rapidly, and the appearances are of those facts in the case that seem to be, at

the stomach and bowels. It is rare that the question of poisoning by hemidek comes before a judicial tribunal. One case of this kind was, however, submitted to me in 1848. In this instance a entid died in one hour after swallowing part of a teacupfus of a decoction of hemicak alleged to have been administered by the mother. The woman was acquitted for want of proof. There were no morbid appearances in the stomach for any trace of hemiock leaves in the stomach or bowels. The absence of leaves in the contents of the stomach was accounted for by the fact that the prisoner had made a decoction and had allowed the leaves to subside to the bottom of the teacup, the child taking only the upper stratum of clear liquid."

THE INQUEST IN BROOKLYN. Promptly at five o'clock P. M. Coroner Simms began the inquiry.

began the inquiry.

THE WINOW'S TESTIMONY.

Alida R. Waiker, widow of the deceased, testined that he came home a little after four o'clock P. M. on Saturday; said that he had been to Dr. Agnew's, and that he had been to Dr. Agnew's, and that he had been to Dr. Squidows agoing to take it immediately; I told him to fake some hourishment; he said he would take the medicine on an empty stomacu, as he thought it would have a better effect; he was to take fifty drops enon half hour till the results were obtained; I than gave it to him thus, as he dictated me; (witness then gave Professor Walker's dying statement, as published in the HERALD of yesterday); one of my wons arrived home about Bail-past six, and the other soon after; no medicine was given my husband after a quarter past five P. M.; the directions as to how mire medicine was to be taken he said he received from the place where the mode he was purchased, not from Dr. Agnew; my husband received a severe himry in 1871, which gradually brought on the twitchings of the eyes and lace; my husband had been under Dr. Brown-Sequard's treatment after having consulted Dr. Agnew Brst.

he received from the place where the mediche was purchased, not from Dr. Agnew; my husband received a severe injury in 1871, which gradually brought on the twichings of the eyes and take: my husband had been under Dr. Brown-Sequard's treatment after having consulted Dr. Agnew hist; be had been under Dr. Brown-Sequard's treatment for one year; about July last, he saw Dr. Agnew, alter Dr. Brown-Sequard had left for Europe;

When he was taking the medicine that it would result latally; he was in very good health at the time he was taking the medicine; he was troubled with photophopola for a year and a Bail; he had diplophin in one eye since 1871; my husband had been troubled with risumatism for a number of years; I have never known him to taint away; as the time he received his wounds he left mat; he had no dizziness of late; it understood him to say he had a very regular pulse; the symptoms, as I described them, were in the language of my husband; all the had-cline i gave my musband was in a graduated glass; my husband died between halspast six and seven o'clock P. M., April 3, 1875; when his symptoms grew wome me sat on the sale of the bed, with his nead leaning against me; then tried to give him some coffee, and he fell back in my arms dead.

THE PHYSICIAN WHO ADMINISTERED THE DRIVE.

David Webster, M. D., Dr. Agnew's partner, read a brief statement of Processor Walker's case, and testified that he was an assistant to Dr. Annew at his office of Physicians and Surgeous; Pread to the deceased all there was in the "United States Dispensatory" about the properties and uses of contum; I think it his read is a propertion on exacting yadminister of properties and uses of contum; I think it his read of the very many of the surgeon of Physicians and surgeons; I read to the deceased all there was in the "United States Dispensatory" about the properties and uses of contum; I think it has to the deceased was very depressed in spirits; deceased that the strength of br. Squbb's greatening that is known as applicable to cases

I made an exception in his case; to produce sight a payacian administering it; I knew deceased had taken opiates appreciating it; I knew deceased had taken opiates appreciating it; I knew deceased had taken opiates appreciating is successful in the same way; I have the cuild seven or ten drops of contum without any apparent effect.

DR. C. B. AGNEW testified to an operation that he had performed on Processor Walker's eye by trying to divide the muscles that surrounded the silt between the cycling, which lalled; Dr. Webster proposed to give him conium, I approved, and by appointment Mr. Walker came to my office on taturday, April 3, 1875, about ten A. M.; conium was administered, but without any apparent effect; I would consider a case so distressing as his justifying the use of even extraordinary remedies under scientific directions; considering deceased's intelligence and the training he has had under the best scientific men, I would not have hearisted to have given him the medicine to take himseli, with the caution administered; think that the deceased had no appreciation of the danger of the drug; have known the deceased always as a man of oneerful disposition.

The imprest was, at this point, adjourned to or cheerful disposition.

The inquest was, at this point, adjourned to Monday next. A post-mortem examination of the body will be made in the meantime in order that the case may be thoroughly investigated. PROPESSOR WALKER'S CARRER.

Projessor T. W. Walker's career was a singularly eventiul one, and the story of his life reads more like a romance than reality. For a number of years he was the correspondent of the New York Express at the national capital. During that time he formed the acquaintance and was socially intimate with many of the most prominent men of the country, and being endowed with rare intellectual qualities, and a gental disposition, the friendships thus formed lasted after he had severed this journalistic connection. Senator andrew Johnson is mentioned as having been on terms of intimacy with the unfortunate gentleman. As stated above, his life was replete with romantic incident. In the historical poisoning at the National Hotel in Washington curing the time of President Buchanan's administration he figured as one of the sufferers. During 1881 he was sept by General Man-field in command of a regiment to effect the capture of a notorious rebel spy named Emacs. His mission was successic! and the object of his search was secured and placed in the custody of two soldiers. Emack managed to escape from his guards, whether by trickery or pripers was never known. On his way from the place where he had been confined he encountered Mr. Walker, attacked him with an immense bowie knife, stabled him through the abdomen, the weapon passing entirely through his body and protruging at the back. Another stab was made out tailed of its intent, the point being turned aside by a memorandum book. At that time Mr. Walker's obituary was published in several papers, but after an illuess of several months he came North and was engaged for some time as a broker in Beaver street and afterward as an insurance agent. He was also at one time an internal revenue collector in this city. He was for many years a Freemason, and was a Past Grand Master in that crait. It was in 1871 that he was run over by a truck at the corner of William and Cedar streets and horribly mutilated, and it was the injuries received at that time waten indirectly led to his death. Upon his removal to Brooklyn ne opened an electrical establishment and administered electrolytical baths and applied electricity as a medical agent. He was about sixtyfive years of age, and left a wife and five onlidren one of whom is a clergyman.

A CARD FROM DR. AGNEW. THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN WITH THE PATIENT ON ADMINISTERING THE HEMLOCK.

No. 19 East Thibty-Kinth Street, }

TO THE EDITOR OF THE RESALD:-In your paper of this morning there is an account of the death of Mr. Walker, of Brooklyn. from an alleged overdose of contam, or poison hemlock, in which there is an allusion to Dr. are of those facts in the case that seem to be, at

slight, sometimes amounting merely to congestion | this stage, essential for publication. Mr. Walker of the brain with slight inflammatory redness of | had had for several years violent spasmodic conhad had for several years violent spasmodic con-tortions of the muscles of the face and cyclids, fre-quently incapacitating him for any form of labor, and always producing distressing grimaces. He had been under the care of Professor Brown-Sequard and others, and for many months had had my services with little or no benefit. The recent revival of confidence in the value of lock, or comum, in spasmodic affections of this character induced Dr. Webster to propose that Mr. Walker should have a trial of its alleged salu-tary effects. The extensive experience of Harley, London (see London Practitioner, vol. and of others in this country, justified such a course.

Mr. Walker accordingly came to my office by appointment, on Saturday, April 3, at ten o'clock, to take the medicine and to be under observa tion. He remained there from about ten o'clock until twenty minutes past one, during which time he took at the hands of Dr. Webster 180 drops of an extract of conium without producing any of the effects of the After waiting an hour and thirty-five minutes after the last dose he walked away, stating that he was in his usual health and did not feel any of the symptoms which the drug was supposed to produce. Beiore going Dr. Webster gave him a prescription for a fluid extract of conium, with instructions to carry the prescription to the manufacturer of the extract in Brooklyn and to see the manufacturer in person and to ascertain from him what dose of his extract could be safely taken. He went, it seems, to the manufacturer, saw him in person, was observed by him to be free from any infoxication from the drug given nearly four hours previously, obtained the extract o conium, had the dose prescribed by him with

A CAUTION NOT TO REPEAT IT if he experienced any of the symptoms which had been previously carefully enumerated. To return. during the three hours and twenty minutes that was at my office under the observation of Dr. Webster, the latter fully instructed Mr. Walker as to the symptoms that the remedy was expected to produce, and read to him an account of the drug and its action as detailed in a standard work. I also explained carefully the effect which the drug might produce, and inquired an hour and twenty minutes after the last dose whether such effect had been produced, and was distinctly Answered in the negative.

Mr. Walker went from the manufacturer's to his home, took, as it is said, three doses of the extract, although the first dose had produced the effect which he had been warned should be considered as forbidding its continued use, and between six and seven o'clock died.

PRECAUTIONS. In this case it should be observed that very extraordinary and mingle precaution had been taken by the medical men concerned to guard against every accident. Mr. Walker had had large experience in the use of nerve remedies and was a man of remarkable intelligence. As he left our office he stated that he understood the directions which had been so carefully given. E. R. AGNEW, M. D.

WAITING FOR SHARKEY.

Detectives O'Connor and Fields, of the District Attorney's office, proceeded to Quarantine Landing, Staten Island, yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of intercepting the steamer City of Mexico, due from Havana, on which it was thought the murderer Sharkey might be a passenger. It is more than probable, however, that he is still at Santiago de Cuba, as the authorities here have no definite information of his having arrived at Havana.

Had he been in Havana on Saturday and placed on board of the steamer which left there on that day for this city it is more than probable the intelligence would have been telegraphed to District Attorney Paeips. That steamer will be due here on Thursday afternoon next, so that if he does not come by the City of Mexico, he may be on board her. It is the general belief of the police authorities of this city that Sharkey is yet at Santiago and that he will not reach Havana for a week or two to come. Assistant District Attorneys Lyon and Rollins are still in Cuba, and it is not likely that Snarkey, wherever he may be, will leave the island until they do.

THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

The representatives of the trustees of Catholic free schools of the city of New York, consisting of Henry L. Hoguet, Frederick E. Gibert, John E. Devlin, Frederick R. Couders, George F. Hecker, Rignal T. Woodward and Rev. Edward J. O'Reilly, had a conference yesterday with the Special Committee of Seven of the Board of Education, to which was referred the communication of such trustees on the subject of parochial schools at the last meeting of the Board. The representatives of the press were excluded from the meeting, and it was determined that for the present the proceedings should remain A written document embodying the demands of the trustees and speeckes in support of them were made by Mr. Houget, Mr. Condert, Patner O'Reilly and others. Remarks were also made by President Neilson and other members of the committee. Upon being applied to for information regarding the proceedings of the committee and the demands of the trustees, Mr. Neilson stated that the matter was not yet in such a position that an intelli-gent and satisfactory statement could be pent and satisfactory systement could be placed before the public, and it had, therefore been determined to keep the matter secret for the present and until the committee was prepared to take definite action thereon. It is understood that it was the purpose of the trustees to lay before the committee facts a plan as would be in accordance with the taw, and at the same time comply with what they regard as their very reasonable demands.

SAD ACCIDENT.

FALL OF A SCAFFOLD-ONE MAN KILLED AND

ANOTHER SERIOUSLY INJURED. A painful accident occurred at about half-past eleven o'clock yesterday morning, by which one man was almost fartantly killed and another very severely injured. For the last few days the front of the Chemical Bank building, No. 76 Chambers street, has been undergoing repairs, and at the time above mentioned two painters were occupied in painting it opposite the third story, in the pied in painting it opposite the third story, in the rear, when the scaffolding on which they stood accidentally overromanned and precipitated bots men to the ground in an adjoining yard, a distance of about torty leet. The scaffolding was of the kind ordinarily used by painters, and consisted of a long, wide ladder, overed with boards and suspervious to the building by ropes. At the time of the accident the linen were close to getter, and taking to each other. Their names are Benjamin Brown, residing at No. 19 Greenwich avenue, and William Jescott, living at No. 5 hadison street. Brown was severely injured in the buck and right arm, and Jescott was likewise injured in the back and internally. The unfortunate men were removed to the Park Hospital, and shirtly siter their arrival at that instituted a street was larged and account of the park Hospital, and shirtly siter their arrival at the institute a street was larged to a latter stature. Tas Coroner has been notified to hold an in-

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY.

The following record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-lour hours, in comparison with the corresponding date of last | Comparison with the corresponding date of last year, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudnus's Pharmacy, Hersald Building -- 1874, 1875, 3 A.M. 21 87 8:20 P. M. 35 61 6 A.M. 22 87 6 P. M. 36 55 9 A.M. 25 47 9 P. M. 36 43 19 M. 35 53 12 P. M. 37 43 Average temperature yearserdsv. 47 Average temperature for corresponding date inst year. 31

THE NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Society was held last night at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Twenty-third street and Fourth avonue. Dr. F. Le Roy Satterlee, Professor of Chemistry in the New York College of Dentiss, delivered a lecture ou "The Neurosis of the Skin," after which an election of officers for the change year took place. The following gentleman were elected:—President—W. A. Haumonn, M. D.: Vice President—J. C. Feters, M. D.: Second Vic. President—F. D. Seute, M. D.: Recording Secretary—J. W. Wells, M. D.: Corresponding Secretary—M. Hergor, M. D.: Treasurer—C. Wagner, M. D.: Cons. M. D.: Le Cross, M. D.: F. Le R. Batternee, M. D. t. Z. Clark, M. D., and J. S. Darif, M. D. Fourth avenue. Dr. F. Le Roy Satterlee, Profes-

THE VERNAL FLOODS.

A New Ice Gorge in the Hudson, Near Castleton.

WORK IN THE MILLS CHECKED

Impending Danger Along the Connecticut and Merrimac Valleys.

The reappearance of small quantities of floating ice in the North River yesterday gives promise of an early resumption of navigation on the broad bosom of the Hudson. It means that the ice embargo of this mighty stream is slowly but surely surrendering to laughing spring, and in a few days, at least, there will be an unobstructed water channel leading into the rich interior of the State. To business men this points to renewed commercial activity, and to travellers it suggests contentment and pleasure. Not for years in Gotham has the wish been so sincere that the solid crystal plain extending from Yonkers to Troy might early move, than at this season, as with the return of the trade consequent upon the opening of the river, employment will be given to thousands of persons who would otherwise remain idle, while wealth lies back of the traffic for the merchant and steamboat men. Thousands of vessels on the lakes and canals, earning nothing for their owners all winter, will again be moving, and the involved capital of millions of dollars once more be paying some manner of percentage. Commercially, the event is of the greatest importance, as is unnecessary to repeat, yet there are but a few who can form a proximate idea of the business that is annually brought to our doors by the Hudson during the season of navigation. Figures

Hudson during the season of navigation. Figures of speech will fail of the object. Unportical figures are required for this work, and these aimost fail snort of computing the vast wealth that is thus floated into New York in the shape of cereals and merchandise.

Not alone is the opening of the Hudson of importance to the commercial community, but to those who, in the season of sunsaine and flowers, turn to the steamboats that ply on its broad waters as a means of pleasant transportation, it is of vast importance. Where in all the "great round globe" are to be found in the same area so much that is grand? The shores of the Hudson are almost poems—its intervales pictures of raral softness and its mountains it resticates for the best. Everybody that travels knows this. When wented by toll authing invigorates so pleasantly as a trip up the Hudson, and time and again when our streets are steaming with heat coes the genuine Gothamite instinctively turn to his paintial steamers, which, season after season, have continued to be improved until now they are little less than floating hotels, surpassing the ambilious efforts of most other inland navigation companies.

These elegant boats are being newly finished and appointed for the trade of the approaching season, and it is no idle compliment to say that their sum tuousness and pleintade of accommodations will be equal to, if they do not surpass, all former years.

It will be some little time, however, before the

dations will be equal to, if they do not surpass, all lormer years.

It will be some little time, however, before the boats will be able to renew their trips, as the extraordinary thickness and solidity of the lee has been such as it will require more than the usual amount of warm weather to break up sufficiently to cause it to move. That it has given away a considerable distance up is well known, besides, the presence of floating ice in the North River attests this fact; but the Upper Hudson is still firm at many points, and for a while will yet resist the indusence of spring. Since 1300 the river had its ice embargo raised, it will be seen by the following table, five times in February, thirty-three times in March and six times in April.

the remember and the man	
three times in March and	
1830 March 15	1853 March 23
1831 Marcu 15	1854 March 17
1832 Marcu 25	1855 March 27
1833 March 21	1856 April 10
1834 February 29	1857 March 18
1885	1868 March 16
1836 April 4	1859 March 8
1837 March 28	1860 Marcu 6
1838 March 19	1881 Marca 2
1839 March 22	1862March 3
1840February 28	1863April 2
1841Marca 24	1864 March 12
15th Barrenser 4	1865
1842 February 4	
1843April 13	1868 March 14
1844 March 17	1867Murch 14
1845 February 24	1868 March 20
1846 March 18	1869 March 15
1847 April 7	1870 Not closed.
1848 March 22	1871 March 8
1849 March 18	1872 March 27
1850 March 10	1873 April 1
1851 February 25	1874 March 3
1852 March 28	1875 April -
SINKING OF A	STEAMBOAT.

About hall-past two o'clock yesterday afternoon, while the steamboat Toomas E. Huise, plying between New York and Perth Amboy, was
preparing to leave her pier at the foot of Vesey
street on her regular afternoon trip, she was run
into by an immense fine of lee waich was foating
rapidly down. A large hele was stove in the forward part of the boat, and she filled rapidly and
sunk to the huritcane deck in less than half an
hour. The Huise was heavily laden with meat
and vegstables, and all of the cargo which could
be saved was about a ton o' beef. She lies now at
the dock with only the pilot house and smokestack visible, while all around are floating
evidences of the accident. The Huise was built
in this city about twenty years ago, and was well
known as an excursion boat during the summer
to fort Lee. Fortunately no lives were lost, as the in this city about twenty years ago, and was well known as an excursion boat during the summer to Fort Lee. Fortunately no lives were lost, as the boat was still moored to the dook when the accident occurred. At the same time the canal boat w. E. Brown was struck by floating ice and considerably damaged.

GRAND CENTRAL DEPOT, April 5, 1875.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

There will be no interruption to travel on this line by the overflow of tracks below Albany. The regular through strains to Albany will run to-day over the Hariem division. To-morrow (Tresday) morning the Hudson River line will be in order and trains run as meanl.

morning to as naul.

WILLIAM H. VANDREBILT,

Vice President New York Central and Hudson
River Railroad Company.

ANOTHER GOEGE FORMED AT CASTLETON AND THE BAILBOAD TRACES STILL SUBMERGED.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 5, 1876. The water in the river is slowly receding, but the docks are still submerged. No new gorge has formed at Castleton, ten miles below this city. and the water is still on the Hudson River Railroad tracks. Trains have to be switched off at Hudson, and reach here by way of Chatham some two or three hours beaind time. Superintendent Toucev letegraphs that if the state of the water permits the damage will be rejaired to-morrow, so that communication via the Hudson River Eniroad track may be resumed.

THE FERET AT RHINECLIFF BUNNING KINGSTON, N. Y., April 5, 1875.

The ice at the mouta of the creek has forced its way out into the river, and to-day the steamer Norwich cut a channel from the creek to Rhine-ciss on the opposite side of the river, and the lerryboat has resumed its regular trips. The ice on the river is a lost flick in some places, but it is honeycomped and full of air heles.

THE NEW ENGLAND FRESHETS. MILLS EMBARRASSED BY THE RISE OF THE WATER - OPERATIVES IDLE - DAMAGE TO BRIDGES AND BUILDINGS ALONG THE MERRI-MAC, NASHUA AND MILLER'S RIVERS. BOSTON, MASS., April 5, 1875. The water in the Nashua River has risen about

four feet since yesterday, and is now six feet above its natural flow and gradually rising. The ice is figating out in large and solid sheets, and, as the water is within a few inches of the braces of the Main street bridge, damage is apprehended. The city authoriti s have been active in keeping the channel clear, and in order to do so have blasted several solid cukes that lodged against the bridge, meeting with good success. A crowd of three or four hundred people have remained on the bridge and banks of the river during the afternoon, watching the operations of the city men, regardless of the cold storm that prevails. ON THE MERRIMAC.

The Merrimac River rose about three feet yesterday. The ice remains solid and there are fears that the backwarer extending into the Nashua River will cause serious trouble at the Jackson The regular monthly meeting of the Neurological mills. There are also lears for the safety of the bridges, the ice being very thick and solid. Messrs. Cross & Toiles are among the anxious business firms, the water being up to within a foot of the point where damage might occur to their sawmills. It is the opinion of those who are acquainted with these rivers that, if the storm continues, serious damage must follow. The maint, however, is not general. At Pawincket Fails a small excursion steamer was wrecked by being carried over the cataract.

The Merriman continues rising all the night. This morning the water was seven feet and a quarter lest over the top of the dam, a rise of

about eleven inches since yesterday morning. A rise of one foot above the dam occasions a rise of three feet in the river below. The rise in the latter since Saturday night has been six and half feet.

Ret.

TROUBLE AT THE MILLS.

All of the mills are troubled with backwater except the Duck Mill. The main Facific Milt is running principally by steam, and 100 hands in the print room have suspended work. At the New Pacific Mill 850 hands are out. The water at noou was within two left of the basement noor. The cotton and worked mills of the Washington Corporation are running entirely by steam and 250 operatives are idle. This corporation uses the old fastioned oreast wheels and the water is nine leetings on the bottom of the water is nine leetings on the bottom of the water is nine leetings on the bottom of the water is nine leetings on the bottom of the water is nine leetings on The Double-flow is using steam. With 15c hands out. None of the machinery at the Evertimilis is running with water power and 100 hands are out.

Mills is running with water power and 100 hands are out.

CONDITION OF THE ICE.

No breakup of the ice had occurred at half-past twelve o'clock. The rise of water his loosened it from the shore, but there is no movement of it down the stream. From Lawrence to the mouth of the river everything is believed to be clear. The last lee in that direction went out this formoun. It lodged for a time about the rapids, between Lawrence and Haverind, causing a rise of six inches here in an hour; but it broke after a little time and the water below the dam receded quickly. At this hour as fall has begun in the water above the dam amounting to intre-fiths of an inch below the highest figures of the freahet. The fan occasions more apprehension than anything which has yet occurred as it is leared the ice is goinged above and holding the water back. It is not believed that the great volume of the flood has yet come down. The Spicket and Shawshine, which enter the Merrimac lust below the city, are swollen almost beyond precedent. At Wilder's paper mil the water covered the floor of the paper vars, which were swept out last might, and a loot oringe over the Spicket at fluther a Roomson's worsted mills has been carried away. The great occasion for anxiety how is, as was just remarked, the fear that the fail in the Merrimac for the last four hours is caused by a serious gorge somewhere above.

The Connecticut River is now clear of ice from Holyoke to the Sound, and the water is rapidly subsiding.

By the breaking up of the ice in Miller's

subsiding.

By the breaking up of the ice in Miller's giver at Atholon Sunday afternoon a large quantity of lumber and engaly test of the Miller's giver huminacturing Company's drying nouse were carried off. Several Ruless and factories were dooded. The damage is estimated at \$1,200. A large quantity of ice is sail locked in, which threatens W. A. Fisher & Co.'s cotton mill and several bridges. Nearly two thousand people witnessed the passage of the ice, and a constant watch is kept against further camage.

THE ICE INTACT AT CONCORD-THE WEATHER PAVORABLE TO ITS SAFE DELIVERANCE.

CONCORD, N. H., April 5, 1875. The rain storm which prevailed yesterday cleared away in the night, and the weather is now considerably coolen. The river is still rising at the rate of about an inch an hour, but the ice is not broken up yet at all. The weather is considered favorable now, and apprehensions of an im-mediate freshet are not feit.

MANCHESTER, N. H., April 5, 1875. It has rained incessantly in this city and vicinity

THE MERRIMAC STILL RISING.

for the last twenty hours. The water in the Mer-rimae is four feet deep as it flows over the dam at Amoskeag Falls. The river is rapidly rising, but the ice has not started except for about 250 rods above the falls and for half a mile below. Between Granite Bridge and the Norte Wier Railroad Bridge the broken ice has accumulated in large masses. A NEW RATEROAD RRIDGE BROKEN.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., April 5, 1875.

One span of the ratiroad bridge at Bardwell's Ferry, on the Troy and Greenpoint Raliroad, bas been swept away by the flood, and the regular running of trains on the Hoosac Tunnel line, which began to-day, is therefore stopped until the bridge can be rebuilt.

A SOLID GORGE NEWLY FORMED IN THE MER-RIMAC-DANGER TO STEAMBOATS. LAWRENCE, Mass., April 5, 1875.

As was expected a serious loe gorge formed tals evening in the Merrimac, about two miles above this city, and now makes a solid barrier across the river, varying from five to six feet in height. At this hour (half-past eleven P. M.) it has not moved. The water at the dam, which at hine P. M. measured eight leet ten inches over the top, has been falling steadily during the past two hours, owing to the backing up behind the gorge. Two steamers are in imminent danger of being carried over the Falls when the gorge gives way, which, it seems, must occur some time during the night. None of the mills which are dependent entirely upon water power will be able to run to-morrow on account of the back water.

A Great Falls (N. H.) despatch says there is a great jam or ice in the river at that place which threatens the destruction of the Market street bridge, and a large lorce of men are at work this evening blasting to break up the ice. At this hour (half-past eleven P. M.) it has not

DAMAGE TO STREETS AND SEWERS IN NEW PORT.

NEWPORT, R. L. April 5, 1875. A cold northeast rain storm has prevailed in this vicinity since last Saturday and considerable damage has been done in the city streets and sewers. In some cases hand engines were brought into use this morning for the purpose of pumping dry the cellars of dwelling houses which had been dooded. The storm cleared up this after-

OBITUARY.

ANDREW A. HENDERSON, UNITED STATES NAVE. Andrew A. Henderson, Medical Director of the United States Naval Hospital, Brooklyn Navy Yard, died on Sunday afternoon, the 4th fust, at his residence, near that institution, at the age of fifty-nine years and one month. The remains will be orwarded to Philadelphia this (Tuesday) moraing, 6th inst., for interment. Medical Director Henderson was employed at the Naval Labora-Henderson was employed at the Naval Laboratory, Brooklyn Navy Yard, during a number of
yoars past. He was greatly estoemed by his
brother officers and a wide circle of friends in
privale society for his ediciency and attention to
duly as an officer and as a gentleman. He was
native and resident of the State of Pennsylvania
and was appointed to the government service
from tout State. His first commission bears date
into of October, in the year 1828, and ins latest, as
Medical Director. 3d of March, 1871. He had
sixteen years and four months' service at sea, the
date of expiration of his last cruise being the
month of September, 1866.

CORNELIUS K. SUTTON.

Another old merchant of this city, Cornelius E. Sutton, has just passed away at the age of sixty. He died on Sunday, siter a brief illness of loar months. Deceased was a self-made man, who made his way in life with industry, energy and integrity. He was well known in Broad stress and was much respected.

DR. R. ROSS ROBERTS. Dr. R. Ross Roberts, an eminent homosopathic physician of Patladelphia, died during the evening of Sunday, the 4th inst., of erysipelas.

ANOTHER SAD STORY.

DREADFUL FATE IN JERSEY OF A PHILADEL-PHIA BEAUTY.

Man's perddy and woman's misplaced affection confidence and frailty is once more illustrated by a snocking case in New Jersey, which is absorbing the attention of the Union county authorities, and which will take the form of a judicial invests gation to-day. Miss S. C. Stiles was a native or Philadelphia, where she resided with her parents. she was well educated, comfortably off, mixed in first class society and is described by those whe knew her as a person of remarkable beauty of both mind and manners. She was but twenty two years of age. On March 22, she turned up in

both mind and manners. She was but twelly two years of age. On March 22, she turned up in Rahway and went to board with a Mrs. Jewell, with whom she was acquainted. She told Mrs. Jewell that she had been married to a man named Stiles, of Princeton, and that he was o ming on in a day or so. The day after her arrival, she complainted of severe timess. Her complaintings excited the suspicions of the matron. Finally Mrs. Jewell lelt satisfied comething was wrong and put to Miss Stiles, asking her it she had not acted foolishly. The agony of the young lady increased, but she gave no satisfactory answer to the matron. She, at lest seeing that matters were taking a worse rather than a belier turn, called in two respectable medical practitioners. Tress preseribed, but their medicines availed nothing, and they were specific alied again, and the result was that the poor zir sunfered a miscarriage from the effects, they agreed, of criminal malprachace by somebody. She nived till the next day, the 24th, and then sied in great agony. Before are death she seat a belogrand to one single frosburg, a drug clerk in Princeton and was burned from the residence of Mrs. Brotoburg on March 27 without any burnel permit. The lady was placed in a comb, as the pour till, likely to cle, and briefly gave instructions as the purial permit. These circumstances maily came to the ears of the authorities as the serial. The charge is that he was an accessory to the dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles. The authorities as the serial dearn of him Stiles.